

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 00382 111312Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05

/069 W

-----081273 120042Z /70

R 111245Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 380

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, US, CF

SUBJECT: US MILITARY ATTACHES IN CONGO

1. CONGOLESE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SASSOU-NGUESSO, REPORTEDLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM SOVIETS, HAS CONVEYED MESSAGE THROUGH MFA PROTOCOL THAT NEITHER APRIL 3 NOR 4 WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR INITIAL VISIT OF OUR MILITARY ATTACHES RESIDENT IN KINSHASA. OUR REQUEST HAD BEEN FOR THEM TO MAKE A COURTESY CALL ON SASSOU-NGUESSO, LAY WREATH ON NGOUABI TOMB, AND RETURN TO KINSHASA, VIA ATTACHE AIRCRAFT, SAME DAY.

2. ALTHOUGH CHARGE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SASSOU-NGUESSO IN JANUARY, AND EMBASSY RECEIVED FORMAL GOCB ACCEPTANCE OF ACCREDITATION IN FEBRUARY (BRAZZAVILLE 161), SASSOU-NGUESSO REPORTEDLY IS FURIOUS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA FOR NOT ROUTING ACCREDITATION REQUEST THROUGH HIM.

3. WE HAVE BROUGHT MATTER TO ATTENTION OF PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR EKONDY WHO, IN TURN, IS (PERMANENTLY) UPSET WITH SOVIETS AND WITH SASSOU-NGUESSO. HE PLANS TO RAISE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO APRIL 6, CONVEYING ARGUMENTS THAT WITH THREE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHES PERMANENTLY RESIDENT HERE AS WELL
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PAGE 02 BRAZZA 00382 111312Z

AS FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE, WITH EMBASSY HAVING RECEIVED FORMAL AGREEMENT FROM THE CONGO, AND GIVEN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS, IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING THAT OUR OWN MILITARY ATTACHES BE RECEIVED BY THE CONGOLESE, IF POSSIBLE NEXT WEEK.

KATZEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: MILITARY ATTACHES
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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